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CONCORD, N.H.

1952

December 16

Frederick H. Clarke,  
Commissioner of Motor Vehicles,  
State House Annex

Dear Sir:

You have asked whether you may publish lists of registrations with the facilities of your Department, instead of letting the work out on contract, and, if so, whether you may sell copies of such lists to people wishing to purchase the same. It is my opinion that you may publish the lists, but that/are not authorized under existing statutes to sell copies of such lists.

I believe adequate authority for the publication and distribution of the lists is contained in R.L. c. 118, s. 10.

The Commissioner is authorized to collect fees from operators and for registration, R.L. c. 118, ss. 1, 9, but I find no provision in the statutes authorizing him to receive the proceeds accruing from sale of lists published pursuant to section 10. In the absence of such authority, I believe he is limited to distribution of such material to those authorized to receive the same without charge.

The authority to permit sale of such data would be an appropriate subject for an Amendment to c. 118, s. 10.

Very truly yours,

Maurice M. Blodgett  
Deputy Attorney General

MBB:HP